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By James W. Hawes

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CAPTAIN WILLIAM HEDGE(a) OF YARMOUTH.

By James W. Hawes.

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By Charles W. Swift.

William[1] Hedge, b. in England; m. probably 1st and 2d Blanche Hull, a widow. He was a freeman of Lynn May 14, 1634. He was probably the soldier in the Pequot war of his surname, who was well mentioned, and was called a gentleman of Northhamptonshire. He removed to Sandwich and from there to Yarmouth.(b) He brought suit in Essex county in 1637.(c) He was styled gentleman and Mr. in the records in 1638 and after. He took the oath of fidelity in Sandwich.(d) He is first mentioned in the Plymouth Colony records Nov. 5, 1638, when for the consideration of £12 sterling he assigned to Gov. Thomas Prence the unexpired term of service of Robert Wicksen(e) due him under an indenture.(f) Dec. 4, 1638, he was fined for keeping a hog unringed.(g) April 16, 1640, he received 14 acres of meadow land in Sandwich.(h)

May 3, 1642, Mr. Hedge of Yarmouth won a suit for 14 bushels of corn from Walter Devell.(i) In August, 1643, he is among those between 16 and 60 in Yarmouth able to bear arms.(j)

In 1643 he had a controversy with Richard Hore of Yarmouth about six acres of meadow which had formerly been given to the church. It was decided that the church was to hold the land and Hedge might sue him or them that sold him the same.(k)

March 6, 1648-9, he was presented by the grandjury for letting an Indian have a gun, powder and shot. His wife was presented for receiving stolen goods.(l) June 9, 1650, with Robert Dennis he was on a bond for the appearance of John Besthope, and they were given till the next court to produce him.(m) In 1650 he appears as constable of Yarmouth.(n)

He had a controversy with Robert Nash of Boston respecting cattle and sued him for £11. The jury March 6, 1649-50, awarded him £8 and the charges of the suit, and left him to sue concerning the yearlings and the rest of the cows included in the suit.(o) Oct. 2, 1650, he was one of the plaintiffs in a suit against William Nickerson.(p) Oct. 5, 1652, he was presented for selling wine and strong waters in Yarmouth without license.(q) June 9, 1653, he was approved as ensign bearer of the military company of Yarmouth.(r)

Feb. 24, 1652-3, he was sworn as one of the jurors to lay out a way from Sandwich to Plymouth, and on the 27th he signed their report.(s) Aug. 7, 1655, he was ordered to exercise the military company.(t) In 1656 the estate of John Darby, deceased, was indebted to him.(t1) Oct. 2, 1658, he was appointed on the council of war.(u) Oct. 2, 1658, he was fined 10s. for threatening Edward Sturgis.(v) June 7, 1659, he was on the grand-jury.(w) Aug. 2, 1659, he was approved as captain of the military company of Yarmouth.(x) In October, 1659, as one of a jury of inquest he signed the verdict in the case of the death of Mary Chase of Yarmouth.(y) June 3, 1662, he was again appointed captain of the military company of Yarmouth.(z)

In 1662, 1663 and 1664 Mr. Hedge brought into Yarmouth liquors, powder, shot and lead.(a) June 18, 1666, he was witness to a letter of William Nickerson to the Plymouth Court.(b)

He died between June 30, 1670, date of his will, and July 5, 1670, the date when the order was given for his executor to appear at Plymouth to prove his will and inventory.(c) They were proved Aug. 11, 1670, and letters testamentary were then granted to his executor Elisha Hedge.(d) The will mentions his sons Abraham, Elisha, William, John, and Elemuel, his daughters Sarah Matthews, Elizabeth Barnes, Mary Sturgis and Marcy (Mercy) Hedge, his sister Brookes (to whom he gives £30 in Virginia due him from her deceased husband), and his wife Blanche, who had left him, to whom he gives 12d. and to whom he directs to be returned what he had received of hers. The will also says: "likewise it is my mind and Will that my sister Brookes shall have livelyhood amongst my Children soe Longe as she Continues a widdow." He appoints his son Elisha sole executor and makes "my beloved friends Mr. Thomas Thornton Mr. Edmond howes [should be Hawes] and Richard Taylor, tayler," overseers.(e) The inventory of his estate amounted to £487 16s.(f)

Children.(f1)

Abraham, b. .

Elisha, b. about 1642; m. Mary ;d. May 17, 1732, in his 92d year, leaving issue.(g)

William, b. .

John, b. .

Elemuel (Lemuel), b. .

Sarah, b. ; m. Matthews (perhaps James[1]).(h)

Elizabeth, b.(i) Yarmouth May 21, 1647; m.(j) Jonathan Barnes in Plymouth Jan. 4, 1665-6.(k)

Mary, b.(l) Yarmouth in 1648; m. Sturgis.(m)

Marcy (Mercy), b. . Lt. Howes of Yarmouth was appointed her guardian July 4, 1673.(n) She m. Elkanah Watson of Plymouth in 1676.(o)

Will of Capt. William Hedge.

The Last Will and Testament of Captain William hedge of Yarmouth in the jurisdiction of Plymouth in New England Late de-

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ceased exhibited to the Court or meeting of the Magestrates for that purpose held att the Town of Plymouth the eleventh day of August 1670 on the oathes of Capt. Matthew Fuller and John Davis as followeth.

Witnesseth These presents That I William hedge senr., in Yarmouth in the Collonie of New Plymouth being weake of body yett of perfect sense and memory doe ordaine this my Last Will and Testament as followeth.

first I bequeath my soule to the Lord that gave it me and my body to a civil and comely Buriall and my estate as followeth.

Item I give unto my beloved son Abraham hedge this my now dwelling house; with all the household stuffe in the Parlour, beding Curtaine Curtaines bedsteed and all the moveables thereunto belonging in the same, and all my land that belongeth to my dwelling house and alsoe all my lands both upland and meddow that I have in the prime field.

Item I doe give unto my beloved son Elisha hedge my necke of Land and meddow belonging thereunto provided that hee pay his brother my son William five pounds.

Item I doe give further unto my beloved son William forty pounds in debts and my beste suite of Clothes and my best hatt

Item I doe give unto my beloved son John fifty pounds and my next suite of Clothes and my brasse muskett and my Rapier and belt and two mares and two Colts.

Item I doe give unto my beloved son Elemuell fifty pounds and two mares and two Coults.

Item I doe give unto my beloved daughter Sarah Matthews five pounds.

Item I doe give unto my beloved daughter Elizabeth Barnes five pound.

Item I doe give unto my beloved daughter Mary Sturgis forty pound.

Item I doe give unto my beloved daughter Marcye fifty pounds.

Item. I doe give unto my beloved sister Brookes thirty pounds that is mine in Verginia that is due to mee from Brother Brookes deceased likewise it is my mind and Will that my sister Brookes shall have livelyhood amongst my Children soe Longe as she Continues a widdow.

Item I make my beloved son Elisha my sole executor of this my last Will and Testament.

Alsoe I doe heer by substitute and appoint my beloved friends Mr. Thomas Thornton Mr. Edmond howes [Hawes] and Richard Taylor, tayler, the overseers of this my last Will and Testament.

And whereas Blanche my Wife hath dealt falcly with mee in the Covenant of Marriage in departing from mee, therefore I doe in this my Last Will and Testament give her twelve pence, and alsoe what I have Received of hers my will is shal be Returned to her againe.

And heerunto I have sett my hand and seale this 30th of June

1670. In the presence of these Witnesses.

William hedge
And a seale

Matthew Fuller
John Gray.
John Davis.

NOTES.

(a) The name is also written Edge in the ancient records. As early as 1648 there was a William Hedges of Taunton. (2 Plym. Col. Recs. 135.)

(b) 2 Savage, 400; Swift, 63.

(c) Pope, 226.

(d) 8 Plym. Col. Recs. 184.

(e) Afterward spelled Wixon.

(f) 1 Plym. Col. Recs. 102.

(g) Ib. 107.

(h) Ib. 147-149.

(i) 7 ib. 29, 30.

(j) 8 ib. 194.

(k) 2 ib. 62.

(l) Ib. 137.

(m) Ib. 151.

(n) Ib. 153.

(o) 7 ib. 47.

(p) Ib. 50.

(q) 3 ib. 17.

(r) Ib. 38.

(s) Ib. 61,62.

(t) Ib. 87.

(tt) 14 Mayflower Descendant, 112.

(u) 3 Plym. Col. Recs. 153.

(v) Ib. 150.

(w) Ib. 162.

(x) Ib. 169.

(y) Ib. 172.

(z) 4 ib. 15.

(a) Ib. 28, 52.

(b) Ib. 135.

(c) 5 ib. 43.

(d) Ib. 47.

(e) Recopied Plym. Col. Wills in Barn. Prob. Of. 299; 3 Plym. Col. Wills, part 1, p. 20; 7 N. E. Reg. 235.

(f) Recopied Wills, 301.

(ff) The dates and places of birth are mostly unknown. The order of births is similarly unknown, except that the order of the sons and daughters among themselves respectively is as given in the will and is probably correct.

(g) The late Wm. P. Davis, town clerk of Yarmouth, an authority on town history.

(h) Will of Wm. Hedge, 3 Plym. Col. Wills, pt. 1, p. 20; 3 Savage, 176, 652.

(i) 8 Plym. Col. Recs. 3.

(j) Ib. 31; 1 Savage, 121; Pope, 226.

(k) Wm. P. Davis erroneously says she m. Joseph Bassett of Plymouth.

(l) 8 Plym. Col. Recs. 7.

(m) Wm. P. Davis and Capt. Hedge's will.

(n) 5 Plym. Col. Recs. 124.

(o) 18 N. E. Reg. 365.

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